

DATE: 11/05/2008
TIME: 11:06 A.M.
ACTIVITY: Rod Blagojevich home line incoming call.
SESSION: 281

SPEAKERS:

BLAGOJEVICH: Rod Blagojevich
SCOFIELD: Doug Scofield

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2 SCOFIELD Yeah, I think SEIU is the biggest funder
3 of Families USA. I have to double
4 check. I think that's right.
5 BLAGOJEVICH So them and Obama to get that guy out of
6 there, whoever's there, and that's my
7 spot.
8 SCOFIELD Yeah and I think Tom's a good
9 intermediary. The only difficulty with
10 Tom as intermediary...
11 BLAGOJEVICH Mmm.
12 SCOFIELD ...or messenger is, you know, Tom more
13 than anybody else uh, you know, wants
14 you to stay. Right? He likes you as
15 governor. But I, I think, you know,
16 Tom's, you know, interested in his
17 interests, and their self interest, and
18 he can still be an honest broker here.
19 (PAUSE)
20 BLAGOJEVICH I'm reading...
21 SCOFIELD I think Tom is somebody that Barack
22 listens to. Yeah, who knows if he'll
23 listen to anybody going forward but, you
24 know, I think he feels he owes Tom and
25 he owes SEIU. You know, SEIU would of
26 been full bore with Edwards if it hadn't
27 been for Tom, cause he came out early,
28 so, you know he pays attention to him.

1 BLAGOJEVICH (Sighs)

2 (PAUSE)

3 SCOFIELD Did you do TV? Weren't you gonna do
4 some TV?

5 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

6 SCOFIELD The, the...

7 BLAGOJEVICH Channel 5 and 7.

8 SCOFIELD Yeah. Went okay?

9 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah, go take, you'll have to take a
10 look at it. Carol Marin, you know.
11 FBI. It could of been you she was
12 saying. You know, mired in FBI
13 investigations. They're all over the
14 place on you. You know, 2002, when you
15 were elected talking about you for, as
16 the president, blah, blah, blah. How,
17 how does it make you feel? You know
18 that, throws that shit at me.

19 SCOFIELD (Laughs)

20 BLAGOJEVICH She's...

21 SCOFIELD I gotta tell you, of the whole pack I
22 think I like her the least.

23 BLAGOJEVICH ...I hate her. I hate her.

24 SCOFIELD Yeah, yep, yep, yep. Yeah, I don't know
25 if there's anybody I dislike more.
26 Maybe Ed Marshall (UI).

27 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah, those two, yeah.

28 SCOFIELD They kinda, they might stand apart.

29 BLAGOJEVICH Chairman of uh, Families USA. That'd be
30 something.

31 SCOFIELD I'll, I'll, I'll find out who's, I'm
32 almost sure they're its biggest funder.

1 I'll find out more about it. Who's
2 there and kind of what that, what that
3 play is. Wasn't Gephart involved? Was
4 Gephart just like consulting on behalf
5 of them or...

6 BLAGOJEVICH I don't know.

7 * * * * *

8 SCOFIELD He wants her?

9 BLAGOJEVICH He wants her...

10 SCOFIELD Yeah. So that's a good place to start
11 from.

12 BLAGOJEVICH Cabinet's out of the question, but
13 Health and Human Services would be my,
14 I'd, I'd take that in a second.

15 SCOFIELD Sure.

16 BLAGOJEVICH That'll never happen. U.N. Ambassador.
17 I'd take that.

18 SCOFIELD Yeah.

19 BLAGOJEVICH You Russian motherfuckers. Can you see
20 me? (Laughs) Alright, anyway, um, but
21 those are not reachable. But, you know.
22 (Sighs) I told my nephew Alex, he just
23 turned 26 today. I said Alex, you know,
24 I call him for his birthday and I says
25 it's just too bad you're not four years
26 older 'cause I could a given you a U.S.
27 Senate seat for your birthday.

28 SCOFIELD Yeah.

29 BLAGOJEVICH You know what I mean?

30 SCOFIELD (Laughs) Yeah.

31 BLAGOJEVICH I mean I, I've got this thing and it's
32 fucking...golden.

33 SCOFIELD Right.

1 BLAGOJEVICH And I, I'm just not giving it up for
2 fucking nothing. I'm, I'm not going to
3 do it and I, I can always parach-, use
4 it and fuckin' parachute me there. I
5 talked to Fred about that. You know,
6 there's life after that if I do it.

7 SCOFIELD What did Fred say?

8 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah, you know, y-, you'd, you'd have to
9 say you're not gonna run again. But,
10 but then you've set yourself up and
11 there's life after that. You can make,
12 you, you can be viable. See that, we
13 have to operate off that assumption.
14 Look, we talked about this yes-, you
15 know, several times, but, there is
16 nothing I coulda done about Obama.
17 Nothing. Right? Other than like you
18 say, keep him from speaking at the
19 convention which is not, a-, anything
20 that ever crossed my mind at all. It
21 never does. Huh?

22 SCOFIELD Yeah, but, I, I think there's
23 literally...

24 BLAGOJEVICH I mean you got this historic, fucking
25 demi-god. He's a demi-god now. At
26 least for now. You follow me?

27 SCOFIELD Yeah and they fall the hardest. But,
28 you're right. At least for now, he is.
29 But that's for now.

30 BLAGOJEVICH And, you know, the Clintons couldn't
31 stop him. But there's nothin' I could
32 have done, the timing, nothin'. There's
33 nothin', right?

34 SCOFIELD I think nothing. Right.

35 BLAGOJEVICH I could of worked my ass off. I could
36 of, hired Axelrod the day after the
37 election, like Kerry, when he was
38 shopping around for a presidential
39 candidate. Okay. We could a built,
40 gone out, out of our way and start

1 establishing that, try to pre-empt Obama
2 in Illinois from doing anything. That
3 wouldn't of scared him off. It's just
4 one more white guy in Iowa. Right?

5 SCOFIELD I think that's right.

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7 BLAGOJEVICH So what'll we do with this now? I mean
8 look, I, I, somehow we gotta, I, you
9 know, when I say we, I mean me, but I
10 mean, certainly you. Figure out a way
11 how it works for you too and how I can
12 help. But how do you turn this into a,
13 you gotta take a bad thing here. Look,
14 I'm better off with this guy winning
15 than McCain, and if he'd a lost, look
16 (stutters) my upward mobility, you know,
17 doesn't look so great right now, but
18 it's a funny business. That's all. And
19 maybe there is no upward mobility but
20 how much more can you do than being
21 governor, right?

22 SCOFIELD Yeah.

23 BLAGOJEVICH How much more can you do?

24 SCOFIELD Yeah. Well, there's, there's nothing.
25 There's one or two things. Maybe.

26 BLAGOJEVICH I mean, something's really fucked up in
27 my head Doug. I mean, I could be and I
28 could sti-, end up still maybe
29 delivering pizzas somewhere. Maybe
30 that's where my destiny is, right? And
31 I'm over here fucking, where I could
32 make myself a U.S. senator for this job,
33 for that job for two years. Or stay on
34 as governor. I don't know but what
35 that's like but, and, you know, the
36 president of the United States is
37 somebody I know. And I'm in discussions
38 with emissaries from him and I'm feeling
39 like, you know, I'm really in a bad
40 place. You know it's interesting isn't
41 it? And like I fail-, I'm a, like I

1 failed. I feel like I'm, like I failed.
2 Like I failed.

3 SCOFIELD Yeah, well look, there is a bright side
4 here to look at, which is you've got,
5 you, you have something that's both
6 important and valuable. And you know,
7 kind of increasingly looks like a
8 president, who certainly has a, you
9 know, has a horse and an interest in the
10 horse winning. Uh, you know, that's a
11 good place to be. And, you know, lots
12 of possibilities could grow from that.

13 BLAGOJEVICH I was thinking of going out to
14 Washington this weekend see Fred and
15 Bill and meet with them. But they're
16 only available like Sunday at 3:00.
17 Sosnik too. What do you think of
18 Sosnik?

19 SCOFIELD I like, you know, I don't know him that
20 well. I only know him really from the
21 dealings we had in the campaign. I
22 thought he was good.

23 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

24 SCOFIELD I thought he was a sharp guy. I would,
25 you know, this is a good thing to bounce
26 off of them. Look, I'm happily removed.
27 You know, I'm happily six years removed
28 from D.C. and I'm not the biggest pro-
29 D.C. guy. So, you know that's one of
30 the reasons I think for me the Senate
31 doesn't make sense. But, I'd be very
32 interested in what Fred and Bill or
33 Sosnik have to say about it. I think
34 that makes perfect sense.

35 (PAUSE)

36 BLAGOJEVICH Huh?

37 SCOFIELD A very worthwhile discussion.

38 BLAGOJEVICH So I'm announcing my process today at
39 1:30. What do you think of that?

1 SCOFIELD Yeah I saw that. That's just the
2 committee.

3 BLAGOJEVICH Think I should do it or not? Should I
4 do this event or just not do it?

5 SCOFIELD Well then, then, you're just putting
6 like the staff on one of the
7 commissions, Harris and Bob and
8 Louanner?

9 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

10 SCOFIELD Um...

11 BLAGOJEVICH (UI) makes more sense about stepping out
12 today?

13 SCOFIELD Yeah I don't know. I don't know if you
14 need to today. Just sort of speeds up
15 the speculation. I mean, everybody's
16 gonna be bugging you about it anyway,
17 but...

18 BLAGOJEVICH I feel like I should slow it down a
19 little. Don't you?

20 SCOFIELD Uh...

21 BLAGOJEVICH I'm letting fucking Harris and Lucio
22 and, and, you know, and Greenlee drive
23 this. Huh? Wha-, what's the hurry?

24 SCOFIELD Why today? Why today? What's their
25 argument for today? (UI).

26 BLAGOJEVICH I'll be in the Obama stories.

27 SCOFIELD Saying nice things about Obama. You
28 know, the commission is about getting
29 the best person. Uh...I don't know. To
30 me it looks like you're stepping on his
31 story a little bit. I see no rush, to
32 be honest.

33 BLAGOJEVICH I don't either.

34 SCOFIELD I mean put out a statement. You know.

1 It can go and say congratulations. It's
2 great for Illinois. Important decision.
3 We're gonna have serious discussions and
4 think about, you know, the right process
5 for making the right choice. I don't
6 know that you have to do anything today.

7 BLAGOJEVICH Where are you now?

8 SCOFIELD Yeah, I'm on my way to uh...

9 BLAGOJEVICH I'm gonna get, I'm gonna conference you
10 in.

11 SCOFIELD Okay.

12 BLAGOJEVICH We'll call you right back, okay?

13 SCOFIELD Okay.

14 BLAGOJEVICH Alright, bye.